Hostels for Scheduled Caste Students

* 100. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to evolve a Centrally sponsored scheme to set up hostels at block-level, exclusively for Scheduled Caste students; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) There is already a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide hostels for Scheduled Caste students through the State Governments/ UT Administrations/Voluntary Agencies/Universities at any place where the concerned educational institutions are situated, keeping in view the concentration of Scheduled Caste population in an area where the educational facilities are inadequate. The hostels under the scheme can be constructed for middle/secondary/college/university stage of education.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Commissioning of Assam Gas Cracker Project

399. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues on which the promoter Reliance Company is adopting dilly-dallying practice to defer commissioning of Assam Gas Cracker Project till such time that their another giant ongoing petrochemical complex at Jamnagar is completed;

(b) whether Government would seriously act to replace this alleged unwilling and sabotaging promoter by a willing company or by a consortium of public sector oil companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the strategy finalised to enforce immediate, time-bound commissioning by Reliance Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) The Gas Cracker Project in Assam is being implemented by Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL), a joint venture of the Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL). The Gas Supply Agreement is under discussion between RAPL and OIL/ ONGC. As regards land, a site has been earmarked for the project. Some re-location may, however, be necessary on account of strategic reasons. The private sector promoter

has indicated that the project can be commissioned within 44 months of the finalisation of the Gas Supply Agreement and the handing over of the possession of the land.

Production rate of fertilizers

400. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the actual production rate of urea and other fertilizers in the country during 1998-99 and upto November, 1999 and sale price for Maharashtra State.

(b) whether Government propose to make such urea and other fertilizers available to Adivasi area people on subsidised rates; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Actual production of urea and other fertilizers in the country during 1998-99 and estimated production upto November 1999 is given below:

('000' MT)

Name of Product	Production 1998-99	Estimated Production (April-November, 1999)
Urea	19291.0	13198.1
Ammonium Sulphate	550.6	381.9
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	467.0	242.7
Ammonium Chloride	63.1	54.3
Di-Ammonium Phosphate	3867.5	2621.2
Single Superphosphate	3406.6	1889.2
Complexes	3774.2	3193.7
Total	31420.0	21581.1

(b) and (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under price, movement and distribution control of Government. The statutory selling price of urea is applicable all over the country including Maharashtra and Adivasi areas. The price of urea during 1998-99 i.e. from 1.4.98 to 28.1.99 was Rs. 3660/- PMT. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation vide a notification, revised the price of urea, and fixed it at Rs> £000/-PMT w.e.f. 29.1.99.